

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 226540

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

UNCLAS STATE 226540

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BDIS, TC

SUBJECT: SERIOUS POTENTIAL TRADE DISPUTE IN ABU DHABI

REFERENCES: (A) ABU DHABI 2443, (B) ABU DHABI 2432, (C)
STATE 224687

1. ARP ONCE AGAIN CONTACTED GRANT JONES, CALHOUN'S BUSINESS LAWYER IN LONDON, IN EFFORT TO URGE UPON CALHOUN AND HIS FIRM ANY ACTION NECESSARY TO AVOID PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE BOND BEING CALLED (REFTEL A).
2. JONES SAID HE HAD VERY RECENTLY SPOKEN TO CALHOUN BY PHONE. CALHOUN APPARENTLY STILL TRAVELING IN CANADA. JONES HAD DESCRIBED ABSENCE OF THREE CRUCIAL AMERICAN EMPLOYEES OF PEAVY AND TOWNSON FROM ABU DHABI AND NEGATIVE IMPACT THIS ABSENCE WAS HAVING ON PEAVY AND TOWNSON'S REPUTATION IN THE EMIRATES. OUTCOME OF JONES CALL TO CALHOUN WAS CALHOUN'S INTENT TO ENCOURAGE RETURN OF HUNTER TO ABU DHABI ASAP. ARP WILL REPORT THE RESULT OF THIS EFFORT TO EMBASSY 14 SEPTEMBER.
3. JONES RAISED ANOTHER PROBLEM WHICH MIGHT BE INHIBITING CALHOUN'S RETURN TO ABU DHABI. CALHOUN APPARENTLY FEARS

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PAGE 02 STATE 226540

THAT IF HE RETURNS TO ABU DHABI AFTER PRETRIAL HEARINGS ON HIS TAX CHARGES IN FLORIDA (REFTEL C), AND QUESTION OF HIS COMPANY'S PERFORMANCE ON ABU DHABI CONTRACT IS STILL FESTERING, HE MIGHT BE HELD IN ABU DHABI CAUSING HIM TO FORFEIT HIS BAIL IN US TAX CASE. JONES IMPLIED CALHOUN'S RETURN TO ABU DHABI MIGHT BE FACILITATED IF THIS POTENTIAL PROBLEM COULD SOMEHOW BE FINESSED. PLEASE ADVISE. ROBINSON

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